

# INTERALLIED AND INTERSERVICE AGENCIES

Committee, and the Joint Post-War Committee had all been concerned with long-range civil-affairs problems, particularly those relating to surrender terms and other post-hostilities arrangements. The Joint Civil Affairs Committee was created to advise the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the military aspects of civil affairs for enemy or enemy-held areas that were occupied by joint operations. The membership of the Committee, unlike that of the Combined Civil Affairs Committee, was entirely military and consisted of three officers of the Army, one of whom was from the Air Forces, and three officers of the Navy. One Army and one Navy officer were also members of the Combined Civil Affairs Committee.

Records.—See entry 12.

## OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

The Office of Strategic Services, known also as OSS, was established by a military order of June 13, 1942, as the principal successor to the Office of the Coordinator of Information (see the volume for civilian agencies). It was assigned, under the jurisdiction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to perform two basic functions, (1) gathering, evaluating, and analyzing intelligence in support of the war against the Axis Powers; and (2) planning and executing operations in support of intelligence procurement. The carrying on of military psychological warfare, including propaganda, was also assigned to OSS by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The military order establishing the agency was modified by an Executive order of March 9, 1943, which directed that certain activities involving the dissemination of propaganda abroad be handled by the Office of War Information rather than by OSS. William J. Donovan, former Coordinator of Information, served as Director of OSS throughout the life of the agency. The organization included the Director, various Deputy Directors and their respective subordinate units in or near Washington, and the field establishment, both in the continental United States and overseas. Each of these component units of OSS is separately described or mentioned in the subordinate entries below; at no given time, however, was the organization, which frequently changed, precisely as shown by those entries.

On September 14, 1945 (by OSS General Order 93), the liquidation of OSS was ordered. By an Executive order of September 20, 1945, OSS was abolished (effective October 1, 1945), and its functions, personnel, and records were divided between the State Department and the War Department.

Records.—In April 1947 the greater part of the records of OSS were in the custody of the Strategic Services Unit of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War, a unit that had inherited the work of the archives unit established within the Registry of OSS in July 1945. These records included policy papers, operational reports, and administrative files of OSS headquarters and records of the field establishments of OSS that had been shipped to Washington. A file of printed and processed military intelligence documents assembled by OSS, 1943-45 (24 feet), is in the Departmental Records Branch, AGO. A considerable quantity of records of the Research

National Archives Handbook, "Federal Records of World War II," vol. II (Military Agencies), pub. 1951,

Rp. 14-29 (copied from M.P.C. personal copy)

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and Analysis Branch and the Presentation Branch, including material resulting from the work of the Office of Strategic Services in assembling, analyzing, and reporting on information to be used by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other agencies, is in the Department of State (chiefly in its Division of Library and Reference Services), many documents having been integrated with materials from other sources into new series.

Some 800 feet of OSS records are in the National Archives, including military intelligence documents known as "Order of Battle" documents, 1942-45 (50 feet); correspondence, memoranda, and other records of the field offices at Stockholm, Sweden, and at New Delhi, India, 1942-45 (6 feet); reports on political, economic, social, and military conditions in various countries, 1942-45 (110 feet); correspondence and other records of the Europe-Africa Division of the Research and Analysis Branch, 1941-45 (15 feet); topographic maps of Europe, with annotations, showing plans for commando and other operations, 1943-45 (13 maps); property records of OSS field installations, 1942-45 (443 feet); and correspondence files of the Washington and New York offices of the Pictorial Records Section and a card file of information about persons whose photographs were obtained by OSS for various reasons, 1942-45 (33 feet). Also in the National Archives are German documentary, propaganda, and other motion pictures used by OSS during the war and motion pictures prepared by OSS (approximately 250 reels).

Some records of OSS field agencies are still abroad. In London, for example, among the records of the Office of the Geographer of the American Embassy are correspondence and other records of the Research and Analysis Branch's Map Unit, which was located in London, 1943-45 (8 feet), relating to its operations and activities; copies of maps received by the Unit, including copies of those prepared by OSS personnel in Washington (120 feet); and various OSS publications received by the Unit from Washington (2 feet). In Cairo, in a warehouse of the American Embassy, are records of the OSS field agency located there, containing information on the operations and activities of OSS personnel in the Middle East (50 feet).

Papers relating to OSS are also among the records of other wartime agencies. See, for example, the central records of the War Department (in the Adjutant General's Office) especially index sheets filed under AG 020 Office of Strategic Services, Aug. 1941-Sept. 1945, and AG 020 Strategic Services Unit, Sept. 1945 ff. A set of Accession Lists, 1942-45, prepared by the Research and Analysis Branch is on file in the Air Historical Group; and copies of "Topographic Intelligence Studies" and "Weekly Situation Reports" of the Research and Analysis Branch, as well as copies of the OSS serial, "The War This Week," are in the intelligence library of the Air Force Department. A number of Civil Affairs Guides and reports on economic problems, prepared largely by the Research and Analysis Branch, 1942-45, are in the central files of the Office of International Finance of the Treasury Department.

Records of other agencies outside the United States contain documents relating to OSS. Records of the Economic Warfare Division of the Amer-

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ican Embassy in London include reports of OSS personnel in Europe relating to Safehaven projects, 1945 (less than 1 foot). Among the records of the United States Mission for Economic Affairs in London are reports of the Research and Analysis Branch in Washington and in London on various economic topics, including food and agriculture, and reports prepared jointly by OSS personnel in London and by personnel of the Economic Warfare Division of the American Embassy in London on various European political and economic topics (2 feet); and copies of reports prepared by OSS personnel in Europe for inclusion in Civil Affairs Guides to Germany, Italy, Japan, Greece, and Eastern European countries.

Some prepared testimony by OSS personnel is available in published congressional hearings. For example, see Senate Appropriations Committee, *Hearings* on the national war agencies appropriation bill for 1945 (78th Cong., 2d sess., parts 2-3, p. 344-356); and House Appropriations Committee, *Hearings* on the national war agencies appropriation bill for 1946 (79th Cong., 1st sess., p. 238-242). A useful analysis of some of the documentary control and research problems of OSS, by a former OSS officer, is in Sherman Kent, *Strategic Intelligence for American World Policy* (Princeton, N. J., 1949. 226 p.). Among the undocumented accounts of OSS are the following: Stewart Alsop and Thomas Braden, *Sub Rosa; The O. S. S. and American Espionage* (New York, 1946. 237 p.); and Corey Ford and Alastair MacBain, *Cloak and Dagger; The Secret Story of OSS* (New York, 1946. 216 p.).

## Office of the Director

The Office of the Director of the Office of Strategic Services (having 31 command responsibilities for the agency as a whole) included assistant directors, special assistants and representatives, the various units separately described below, and a number of minor units not separately described here.

Among the more important committees responsible to the Director was the Executive Committee, in existence by August 1942, which was responsible for reviewing the internal administration of OSS. This Committee was abolished on January 5, 1944, and was succeeded by three committees that existed until March 20, 1945: The Policy Committee, which reviewed matters of broad policy and considered proposals for new undertakings; the Operations Committee, which reviewed matters relating to operating policies and programs of the agency; and the Administrative Committee, which reviewed matters concerning internal administration. The Director also established at least two boards and one committee concerned primarily with reviewing policies regarding OSS personnel in relation to military regulations: The Citations Board, the Officers Board, and the Committee on the Deferment of Government Employees (known also as the Draft Deferment Committee).

*Records.*—See entry 30.

## Office of the Executive Officer

This Office served as the executive agent for the Director of the 32: Office of Strategic Services without, however, exercising any com-

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mand responsibilities over OSS. The Office, also known as the Executive Staff of the Director, performed two types of functions, "housekeeping" functions, most of which were transferred in October 1942 to the newly created Office of the Deputy Director, Services; and special functions remaining after October 1942, such as expediting current orders and decisions of the Director, executing certain instruments and documents for the Director, and directing the work of the Secretariat and its Registry, and (after December 1944) of the Field Section.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

*Secretariat*

This unit of the Office of Strategic Services existed within the Office of the General Counsel until October 17, 1942, when it was transferred to the Office of the Executive Officer. It was the channel for submitting programs, plans, and projects to the Director and served as his reports and editorial staff. The Secretariat prepared monthly reports on all the major activities of the agency and, in conjunction with the Field Section, informed the heads of the OSS field establishments of all major developments—whether in the United States, in the theaters of operations, or in other areas—that affected the activities of OSS. It maintained the records of the Office of the Director, including files of directives and orders of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other basic documents. It was responsible, also, for the activities of the Registry, which maintained the secret control records and files on intelligence and operations for all branches of the Office of the Deputy Director, Operations, and for the Secret Intelligence and X-2 Branches of the Office of the Deputy Director, Intelligence. In the summer of 1945 an "archives" unit was set up within the Registry to select and rearrange for ultimate transfer to the National Archives OSS records appraised as worth permanent preservation.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

*Field Section*

This Section was established in accordance with a reorganization order of December 26, 1944, and inherited functions formerly performed by the Operations and Plans Officer, discussed below, and the Strategic Services Officer in charge in each theater of operations. The Section assisted the Executive Officer in carrying out for the Director such duties as pertained to the several theaters and missions; acted as the rear echelon at the Office of Strategic Services in Washington for OSS field agencies in all matters except those involving only an individual branch or office and its own parallel units in the field establishments; maintained liaison with the Theater Section of the Operations Division, War Department General Staff; and supplied information to the Director, the assistant directors, and the Executive Officer on current developments in the various theaters of operations.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

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### Office of the General Counsel

Established within the predecessor Office of the Coordinator of Information, this Office performed all the legal work for the Office of Strategic Services. It prepared, and reviewed, prior to commitment, all contracts, leases, and other legal agreements to which OSS was a party; rendered legal advice and handled legal matters pertaining to all phases of operations; assisted the Special Funds Branch to determine the proper procedures for accurate accounting of its expenditures; and, toward the end of the war (in August 1945), undertook to coordinate the "war crimes activities" of the Office of Strategic Services with similar activities in the War Department.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

### Office of Research and Development

This Office, established on October 17, 1942, had staff responsibility within OSS for the development of special weapons and equipment required in OSS operations. The Office provided camouflage devices and tabulated and disseminated information regarding various types of equipment. It was designated as the sole OSS unit for liaison with the Office of Scientific Research and Development and with other Government agencies conducting equipment research and development.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

### Strategic Services Planning Staff

Established in December 1942, this Staff inherited the work of two predecessor agencies: The Supporting Committee of OSS, which had assisted the Director of OSS in his work as Chairman of the Joint Psychological Warfare Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, July–December 1942; and the Subcommittee of the Joint Psychological Warfare Committee, known also as JPWC Subcommittee, March–December 1942. The Planning Staff initiated for the Strategic Services Planning Group (see below) programs based on suggestions from all sources, including agencies of the other members of the United Nations, and, in collaboration with the planning officials of the operating branches concerned, formulated such programs for the approval of the Planning Group.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

### Strategic Services Planning Group

This Group, established in the Office of Strategic Services by a directive of December 23, 1942, inherited functions previously performed by the Joint Psychological Warfare Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (see entry 17). The nine full-time members included four from OSS, one of whom was chairman of the Group, two from the Army, two from the Navy, and one from the Department of State. These officials were primarily concerned with coordinating major projects and plans of

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OSS with military and naval programs. After a given project had been integrated with the total military program and approved by the Director, it was submitted to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for final approval.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Advisory Committee**

Established in December 1942, this Committee inherited the work of the Joint Psychological Warfare Advisory Committee, which had been set up in October 1942. It consisted of representatives from the Office of Economic Warfare, the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, the Treasury Department, and other Government agencies. It assisted the Strategic Services Planning Group by considering OSS activities that affected the agencies represented on the Committee, by advising how those agencies might assist in insuring the success of OSS plans, and by proposing such steps as might be useful in strategic activities.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Office of the Operations and Plans Officer**

This Office, established in the summer of 1943, acted as liaison agent between the operating branches of OSS, on the one hand, and the Strategic Services Planning Group and the Director of OSS, on the other. It supplied to the Director information regarding the plans, programs, and operations being developed by the branches under the Deputy Director, Operations. With the Strategic Services Planning Staff, it assisted the operations branches in carrying out their functions and kept the Strategic Services Planning Group informed of all projects originating in the field and of the current status of approved operations. The functions of the Office were taken over in December 1944 by the Field Section of the Secretariat.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Special Relations Office**

This Office, known before January 1943 as the Liaison Office, was responsible for maintaining contacts with all Government agencies except the War and Navy Departments, with foreign government agencies and their representatives, and with other sources that might provide information of value to OSS. In connection with its over-all liaison functions, the Special Relations Office was also responsible for the security aspects of "all elements involved in the transportation of Office of Strategic Services persons, material and equipment overseas," and it represented the Director in particular undertakings, "usually of a confidential and urgent nature." The Office was discontinued in December 1944, when its transportation functions were absorbed by the Transportation Office and its liaison functions by other units of OSS.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

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**Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment**

Established in May 1943, this Detachment was responsible for effecting contacts with the War Department and was also charged with administering all matters pertaining to Army personnel assigned to OSS. Before May 1943 this work, together with comparable Navy-related work, was handled by the Service Liaison Branch, October 1942-January 1943, and the Service Liaison and Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, January-May 1943.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Naval Command**

This command was established in May 1943 to serve as a liaison office between OSS and Navy agencies and to handle administrative matters affecting Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel assigned to OSS.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Office of the Inspector General**

Known until mid-1944 as the Office of the Inspector, this Office was established on January 3, 1943. It made inquiries and investigations as required by the Director and reported to him upon all matters affecting the efficiency of OSS operations in the United States and overseas.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Field Photographic Branch**

This Branch was established on January 3, 1943, to produce OSS training films and to undertake strategic photography overseas for OSS, the Army, and the Navy. Before January 1943 this work was performed by the Secret Intelligence and Special Operations Branches of OSS, described below.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Office of the Theater Officer**

Established in the summer of 1943, this Office channeled all communications to and from the field agencies of OSS. It was responsible for correlating and expediting all matters with respect to OSS enterprises in the theaters of operations and for furnishing the Operations and Plans Office with data regarding the current status of approved activities in the theaters. One of its subordinate units, the Transportation Office, approved and scheduled overseas transportation for OSS personnel and served as the channel through which the geographical theater offices worked to coordinate the flow of supplies and personnel to the field. In December 1944 the Theater Office was superseded by the Field Section of the Office of the Executive Officer.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

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**Office of Medical Services**

Medical officers were on duty with the Office of Strategic Services 47 from the establishment of the agency, and in the summer of 1943 the Office of Medical Services was set up in the Office of the Director to provide medical services to all OSS personnel and to handle medical supplies. In addition, it was assigned the functions of training medical personnel for special activities, determining and providing for the medical needs of resistance groups, and collecting medical intelligence in cooperation with the Secret Intelligence Branch. A representative of the Office was Chairman of the Medical Board, which reviewed cases involving injury to OSS personnel referred by theater medical officers and prepared suitable recommendations to the Assistant Director.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Security Office**

This Office served as the security agency of the Director for safe- 48 guarding military information. It had responsibility for the security aspects of all OSS personnel, property, records, areas, offices, and buildings. At the Indoctrination School, established on December 18, 1942, security officials instructed all personnel in important security problems and procedures of OSS.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Communications Branch**

This Branch planned, organized, and operated the essential com- 49 munications systems required by OSS both in Washington and in the field. It furnished instructors and personnel for training activities, developed special communications equipment and materials, and aided in recruiting and screening radio operators for other branches.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Board of Review**

Established in 1943, this Board consisted of four top OSS officials, 50 including the General Counsel, and served as the auditing unit of OSS and as the Director's adviser on fiscal policy. The Board reviewed and made recommendations on financial controls, financial records, accounting procedures, and proposed expenditures of unvouchered funds requiring the approval of the Director. It was discontinued on August 4, 1945, was reactivated on September 4, 1945, and was terminated with the rest of OSS on October 1, 1945.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Presentation Branch**

This Branch, which originated in the Office of the Coordinator of 51 Information, was also known as the Visual Presentation Branch. It produced visual materials used in OSS, excluding motion and still pictures,



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but including charts and other graphic designs. It also maintained exhibits of the equipment and material used by OSS and of corresponding items captured from the enemy.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

#### Office of the Deputy Director, Services

This Office, also known as the Office of the Chief, Administrative Services, and as the Office of the Deputy Director, Administrative Services, was responsible for most of the administrative or "housekeeping" functions of the Office of Strategic Services. It was established in October 1942 and inherited the housekeeping functions of the Executive Officer. It formulated policies regarding the administration of OSS, both in Washington and in the field; reviewed all organizational changes affecting any branch or office of OSS; and supervised a number of branches concerned with budgeting, finance, procurement, supply, reproduction, and office services.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

#### Office of the Deputy Director, Intelligence

Intelligence activities, the primary function of the Office of Strategic Services, were performed from June through December 1942 by the three intelligence branches inherited from the Office of the Coordinator of Information: Secret Intelligence, Research and Analysis, and Foreign Nationalities. On January 3, 1943, these branches were put under the Office of the Deputy Director, Intelligence, and later in 1943 the X-2 Branch and the Censorship and Documents Branch were added. This Office, also known as the Office of the Deputy Director, Intelligence Services, in addition to supervising the work of its branches described below, maintained liaison with other Government agencies that were engaged in intelligence activities, especially the War and Navy Departments.

In coordinating the activities of the branches, the Deputy Director, Intelligence, was assisted by the Radio Advisory Committee, established on March 1, 1944, and the Committee on the Dissemination of Intelligence, which was established on April 6, 1944, to define and enforce procedures regarding the preparation and dissemination of intelligence reports.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

#### Secret Intelligence Branch

This Branch, which was known in the Office of the Coordinator of Information and in the early days of OSS as Special Activities B, was renamed the Secret Intelligence Branch on January 3, 1943. It collected secret intelligence in all parts of the world except the Western Hemisphere, evaluated such intelligence and disseminated it to authorized agencies, and established and maintained direct liaison with Government and Allied secret intelligence agencies.

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It was organized largely on a geographic basis, with divisions for Europe, Africa, the Near and Middle East, and the Far East. These geographic units supported secret intelligence activities in their respective theaters of operations and recruited, trained, and dispatched personnel overseas. The Branch also included the Reporting Board, which edited and disseminated reports after they were approved by the geographic divisions concerned.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

#### X-2 Branch

The Counterintelligence Division of the Secret Intelligence Branch 55 was established in March 1943 and was set up separately as the X-2 Branch in June 1943. It handled counterintelligence activities in all areas other than the Western Hemisphere. In particular, it collected and evaluated counterintelligence information and disseminated it to authorized agencies; directed liaison with appropriate military, naval, and civilian agencies of the United States and Allied governments; and prepared lists of enemies or subversive persons for use by theater commanders and other Government agencies. X-2 was organized on a geographic basis, with offices for the European, North African, Middle Eastern, and Far Eastern Theaters of Operations and for European and Far Eastern Field Control.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

#### Research and Analysis Branch

This Branch originated in the Office of the Coordinator of Informa- 56 tion and was responsible for the accumulation, evaluation, and analysis of political, psychological, sociological, economic, topographic, and military information required for operations or requested by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the armed forces, and other authorized Government agencies, and for the preparation of studies, maps, charts, and illustrations relating to such material. The Branch prepared daily and weekly situation reports and current intelligence studies; participated in the preparation of the "Joint Army and Navy Intelligence Studies," the "Civil Affairs Handbooks" and "Civil Affairs Guides," and *Newsmap*; collected and cataloged strategically valuable photographs; and maintained an extensive card index of information obtained by the Foreign Nationalities Branch.

The Branch was organized both geographically and functionally. It included the Projects Committee, which authorized, scheduled, and approved all study and research projects of the Branch; the geographic divisions, for the European-African, Far Eastern, Latin-American, and Soviet Union areas; the functional units, including the Current Intelligence Staff and the Map Division (primarily responsible for the compilation of many reports); and a special representative who maintained liaison between the Branch in Washington and its field units and between the Branch and the Joint Intelligence Committee, the Joint Strategic Survey Committee, the

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Joint Intelligence Studies Publishing Board, and the Civil Affairs Divisions of the War and Navy Departments. The Central Information Division of the Research and Analysis Branch was the repository for intelligence documents from its own units, from all other branches of OSS, and from other intelligence agencies, except that documents requiring special security safeguarding were held by the Registry. The Branch was also responsible for the activities of the Interdepartmental Committee for the Acquisition of Foreign Publications. This unit, which was sponsored and financed by OSS, collected (often in the form of microfilm copies) foreign newspapers, periodicals, books, technical and trade journals, and other library materials and served in this way all Government agencies interested in foreign publications.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

## Foreign Nationalities Branch

This Branch maintained contact with “hyphenated-nationality groups” in the United States and analyzed, indexed, and processed information gathered from them for dissemination to planning and operating branches of OSS, to the State Department, and to other Government agencies. In connection with its duties, it maintained close liaison with the Foreign Activity Correlation Division of the State Department.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

## Censorship and Documents Branch

This Branch, established in November 1943, inherited some of the work of the Secret Intelligence Branch and some of the radio-intelligence functions of the Communications Branch. By the summer of 1944 the organization included Radio Intelligence, Censorship, and Documentary Intelligence Divisions. Through these divisions the Branch supervised radio-intelligence activities; maintained liaison with the British Radio Security Service, the Federal Communications Commission, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the War Communications Board, and the Office of Censorship; and distributed intelligence obtained from censorship sources to other branches of OSS.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

## Office of the Deputy Director, Operations

This Office was created in January 1943, simultaneously with the Office of the Deputy Director, Intelligence, and was also known as the Office of the Deputy Director, Psychological Warfare. Its activities dealt with planning and executing operations in support of intelligence procurement, and by 1944 its work was divided functionally among the subordinate agencies separately described below, most of which had originated in the former Office of the Coordinator of Information.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

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**Special Operations Branch**

This Branch, set up in the Office of the Coordinator of Information 60 and known in the early days of OSS as Special Activities/C, was renamed the Special Operations Branch on January 3, 1943. It was responsible for accomplishing sabotage in enemy and enemy-occupied countries, for organizing and supporting underground resistance movements, for conducting such operations as were not assigned to other Government agencies and not under the direct control of a theater or area commander of the Army or Navy, and for equipping and training individuals and organizations required for its operations. Under its Chief and his Deputy Chief there were two operations officers, one for Europe and one for the Far East. The Maps and Reports Officer was responsible for research and the preparation of reports in connection with special operations.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Morale Operations Branch**

This Branch was established on January 3, 1943, and inherited 61 certain functions from Special Activities/C, predecessor of the Special Operations Branch. It supported the activities of that Branch by inciting and fostering resistance within enemy or enemy-occupied countries, and its operations were designed to create confusion and division in enemy areas and to undermine enemy morale. It disseminated leaflets and documents, instigated and supported fifth column activities, and provided trained personnel and supplies for these activities. The Branch was divided into the European-Mediterranean and the Pacific-Far Eastern Sections. Plans officers originated weekly and strategic intelligence directives and summaries and dispatched them to the field along with suggestions for their adaptation to field operations. A Production Officer for each section expedited the physical output of materials for campaigns and projects worked out by the geographic units.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Operational Group Command**

In December 1942 the Office of Strategic Services was authorized 62 to conduct guerilla warfare behind enemy lines. This activity was assigned to the Special Operations Branch until May 13, 1943, when the first separate operational group was authorized. This group and others established later comprised the Operational Group Command, which at first was under the Office of the Deputy Director, Operations, but which later, by mid-1944, became more nearly independent. The Command aided and directed open-resistance groups in carrying out guerilla warfare and in attacking selected targets. Unlike the Special Operations Branch, the Command activated guerillas as military units that operated in uniform and were not primarily concerned with individual acts of sabotage. Operational teams consisting of American volunteers who spoke the language of the target area were selected and trained by the Command for overseas duty.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

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**Maritime Unit**

On June 9, 1943, the maritime-training functions of the Special Operations Branch were transferred to the newly created Maritime Unit of the Office of the Deputy Director, Operations. In addition to maritime training, operational functions were assigned to the Unit, and it eventually became the maritime transportation arm of OSS in all areas. The Maritime Unit also assisted the Office of Research and Development of OSS in developing special equipment and supplies necessary to carry out maritime operations. The Unit was discontinued on September 1, 1945.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Special Projects Office**

This Office was responsible for carrying out special operational assignments and missions as approved by the Director. It was set up on May 26, 1944, as a separate unit under the administrative direction of the Office of the Deputy Director, Operations, to perform this task, previously a function of the Special Operations Branch.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Field Experimental Unit**

To this unit, established during the summer of 1944, also under the administrative direction of the Office of the Deputy Director, Operations, was assigned the function of demonstrating newly developed and special weapons and techniques to field missions of OSS.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Office of the Deputy Director, Schools and Training**

Training activities performed by the Schools and Training Branch, and by the operating branches of the Office of Strategic Services as far as their own personnel or specialized functions were concerned, were centralized in this Office in May 1944. The Deputy Director, Schools and Training, was responsible for coordinating training activities and for supervising the Schools and Training Branch. As Chairman of the Training Board, which was established under the Schools and Training Branch on March 24, 1944, he helped formulate the training plans of the Branch. The Office was also closely connected with the Assessment Board, which was established in March 1944 to determine whether persons attending the OSS Assessment School (established earlier in 1944) were fit for overseas duty.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Schools and Training Branch**

Training functions performed by the Secret Intelligence and Special Operations Branches and by other units of the Office of Strategic Services were centralized on January 3, 1943, in the Schools and Training Branch. The Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, maintained administrative jurisdiction over the Branch

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for various periods of time during 1943 and 1944. By March 1944 the Branch was independently responsible to the Director for instruction and training of OSS personnel in the United States and abroad. Although the Deputy Director, Schools and Training, assumed supervisory responsibility over the Schools and Training Branch in May 1944, the Branch retained some independence of action. Military personnel of the Branch were under the "operational command" of the Branch Chief, as were all the training areas operated by OSS.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Office of the Deputy Director, Personnel**

Personnel administration was decentralized among the individual 68 branches and offices of OSS until December 21, 1944, when it was made the responsibility of the new Deputy Director, Personnel. His Office established policies regarding personnel procurement, maintained liaison with the Civil Service Commission and the War Manpower Commission, and supervised the units separately described below. On August 13, 1945, the Office was discontinued and its functions were transferred to the newly established Personnel Branch (see below).

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Personnel Procurement Branch**

This Branch was established about mid-1944 as an independent 69 unit in the Office of the Director, and on December 21, 1944, it was put in the Office of the Deputy Director, Personnel. The Branch recruited military, naval, and civilian personnel in response to requisitions from the various OSS branches and offices; prepared personnel reports; maintained liaison with the Secretariat of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and with appropriate agencies of the War Department in respect to personnel procurement; reviewed personnel practices of OSS units in the field; processed all personnel returning from overseas; and determined the type of information required from field personnel offices regarding personnel being considered for reassignment or reassessment. The Branch was abolished on August 13, 1945, and its functions were transferred to the Personnel Branch.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

**Civilian Personnel Branch**

This Branch was responsible for the recruitment, classification, 70 assignment, and use of civilian personnel in the Office of Strategic Services. It was supervised at first by the Executive Officer; later, October 1942–December 1944, by the Office of the Deputy Director, Services; and after December 21, 1944, by the Office of the Deputy Director, Personnel. On August 13, 1945, the Branch, with the other units of the Office of the Deputy Director, Personnel, was abolished, and its functions were transferred to the Personnel Branch.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

## INTERALLIED AND INTERSERVICE AGENCIES

### Personnel Board

This Board, established in the Office of Strategic Services on September 7, 1944, handled reassignment and separation problems, reviewed records of employees awaiting discharge, and conducted investigations of any special situations that came to light during the final interviews. Its members represented the General Counsel's Office and the Personnel Procurement Branch. In December 1944 the Board was put under the Office of the Deputy Director, Personnel. 71

*Records.*—See entry 30.

### Assessment Review Committee

This Committee was established on May 8, 1945, by the Assessment Board of the Office of the Deputy Director, Schools and Training, to review cases of applicants disqualified for overseas duty. The Committee included psychiatrists selected by the Deputy Director, Schools and Training, a medical officer selected by the Chief of the Medical Services Office, and a representative of the branch concerned. Recommendations of the Committee were forwarded to the Director through the Office of the Deputy Director, Personnel. 72

*Records.*—See entry 30.

### Personnel Branch

This Branch was established on August 13, 1945, as part of the liquidation program of the Office of Strategic Services and inherited the functions of the Office of the Deputy Director, Personnel, and its subordinate Personnel Procurement and Civilian Personnel Branches. Its main duty was the processing of personnel for separation. 73

*Records.*—See entry 30.

### Field Agencies

In addition to the branches and offices described above, OSS at various times established units outside of Washington—in the United States, in the theaters of operations, and in other areas. The domestic field units of OSS, most of which were near New York City or in the California coastal area, were known as "outposts" (the equivalent of Army staging areas) and were centers for handling transient personnel, both outgoing and incoming. The overseas units of OSS were patterned after the Office of Strategic Services in Washington. Thus, the Strategic Services Officer in a given theater of operations, or the Chief of a Mission elsewhere, was in command of all OSS units in his assigned area of operations, and he occupied there a position comparable to that of the Director of the Office of Strategic Services in Washington. He was assisted by a staff of officers, which included a deputy, an executive, and intelligence, operations, and services officers. 74

Each of the branches and offices of OSS in Washington was represented, if necessary, in each field agency, by personnel responsible to the Strategic

## OTHER INTERALLIED MILITARY AGENCIES

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Services Officer or the Chief of Mission; but this personnel was also in contact with, and reported to, the appropriate branch or office chief in Washington. In a theater of operations, the Strategic Services Officer was responsible both to the theater commander and to the Director of OSS. Not only were the activities of an OSS unit in a theater integrated with those of the regular military units there, but also it was the duty of the Strategic Services Officer to maintain close relations with OSS field agencies in other theaters and areas. By 1944 such agencies were in existence in the European, North African, Middle East, and Pacific Theaters of Operations. Changes in the geographical boundaries of theaters resulted in similar changes in OSS field agencies. Thus, when the Middle East and Central African Theaters of Operations were combined to form the Africa-Middle East Theater of Operations, a similar reorganization took place in the OSS units in those areas; when the Pacific Theater of Operations was divided, OSS units were similarly reorganized.

The organization of the Office of Strategic Services in the China Theater in 1945 was typical of the OSS field establishment. The Strategic Services Officer, China Theater, was responsible both to the Commanding General of the China Theater and to the Director, Office of Strategic Services. Under the Strategic Services Officer there were a deputy, an Executive Office with a Secretariat and a Registry Unit, special assistants, a liaison office, and a Board of Review. Reporting directly to the Strategic Services Officer were the technical and administration units—the Medical, Personnel, Security, Schools and Training, Research and Development, and Visual Presentation Offices—and the commanding officers of OSS detachments scattered throughout the China Theater. The OSS Operations and Planning Board of the China Theater, under the Strategic Services Officer, directed the activities of the following units: (1) The Intelligence Office and its Secret Intelligence, X-2, Research and Analysis, Censorship and Documents, and Reports Sections; (2) the Operations Office, its Maritime Unit, and its Special Operations, Morale Operations, Field Experimental, and Special Projects Sections; (3) the units of the Operational Group Command; and (4) the Services Office and its "housekeeping" units.

*Records.*—See entry 30.

## OTHER INTERALLIED MILITARY AGENCIES

In addition to and separate from the Combined Chiefs of Staff there were several other wartime agencies composed of representatives from the War and Navy Departments of the United States and from the corresponding military agencies of certain other nations, especially several Latin-American governments that collaborated with the United States. The name of a board, it should be noted, may not always indicate its status; thus the Joint Aircraft Committee and the various "joint" boards dealing with the Western Hemisphere were actually interallied rather than joint Army-Navy in character; conversely, the Inter-Allied Personnel Board was an internal War Department committee. A few of the international boards described